

HOUSE RESOLUTION 369

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to recognize Inman E. Otey, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Otey is one such estimable citizen who has served with distinction for nineteen years as Executive Director of the Tennessee State University (TSU) Career Development Center; and

WHEREAS, Inman Otey soon will be taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Otey has led the Career Development Center to numerous successes during his tenure; he expanded the annual career fair to a four day event that attracts 2,000 students and 270 corporate and university recruiters, he established the Nashville Area College to Career/Teacher Fair and the TSU On-Campus Annual Spring Internship/Co-op/Employment Fair and Health Science Fair; he bolstered the Student Motivation Task Force to reach sixty classes and 900 students over the course of three days, and established the on-campus Federal Work Study Program as an initial career orientation that brings approximately 1000 students to the Career Development Center every year. These programs generate \$1,500,000 for 1,000 TSU students; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, he achieved an expansion of the Career Development Center's staff from four to ten, while creating the TigerTrack/Simplicity Web page to streamline the hiring process for students and employers; and

WHEREAS, before serving as Executive Director of the Career Development Center, Inman Otey was the Associate Director for International Trade Development for the State of Tennessee Department of African Affairs, located at TSU; as Associate Director, he traveled

extensively throughout Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean to meet with foreign dignitaries, business owners, and executives; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited individual of the highest order and an exceptional asset to his community, Mr. Otey served his fellow citizens as Mayoral Assistant and Urban Development Officer for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, participating in the design and creation of the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, the Riverfront Development at 2nd Avenue and Lower Broadway, and the Jefferson Street/Germantown Development; and

WHEREAS, a noteworthy businessman, Inman Otey has spent more than twenty-five years as an owner, chief executive officer, developer, and manager of major businesses and development projects. He was the Organizing Manager of Nashville's first federally insured home-loan banking company, Community Federal Savings and Loan Association; a licensed real estate and insurance broker and contractor, serving as Nashville's first African-American realtor; the owner and Chief Executive Officer of Otey's Development Company; the owner and operator of Cumberland Park Shopping Center and Otey's Quality Grocery; the developer of the Phyllis Wheatley Home for the Aged, Silverdean Apartments, and Haynes Manor Subdivision; and the founder of the Minority Economic Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Otey has lent his time and many talents to numerous worthy causes, including the Southern Association of Colleges and Employers, Leadership Nashville, Leadership TSU, TSU Nashville Alumni Chapter and National Association, and the North Nashville Community Development Corporation; he has served as Vice President of Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship (IMF), Vice Chairman of the IMF College Trust Fund, Board Member of Grace Eaton Day Care and Parent Resource Center, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association; and

WHEREAS, an ordained minister, Inman Otey served three terms as Interim Pastor at Pleasant Green Baptist Church, where he also was Deacon and Sunday School Superintendent and teacher; he founded and is now the Presiding Minister of Zion New Jerusalem Church and Ministry in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Mr. Otey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and accounting from Tennessee State University; he has also received training from Vanderbilt University, the Realtors National Marketing Institute, the United States Savings and Loan League, and the American Baptist Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Inman Otey exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Otey is perhaps most grateful for the love and companionship he has shared with his wife, the former Velma Dennis, his three children, and his five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Inman Otey has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and clients alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we extend to Inman E. Otey, Sr., our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement after serving with distinction as Executive Director of the TSU Career Development Center and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.